

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Pompey's Historic: Simonson's Furniture Store
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: _____ COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 50-52 Rapallo Avenue
- 4. OWNER(S): Vincent & Kathleen Labbadia PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Restaurant & Apartments Historic: Stores & Apartments
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain restaurant no

DESCRIPTION

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Early modern commercial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1908
- 8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
 clapboard asbestos siding brick
 wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
 board & batten stucco cobblestone
 aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: brownstone
 other: _____ foundation

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

- wood frame: post and beam balloon
- load bearing masonry structural iron or steel interior framing
- other: _____

ROOF: type:

- gable flat mansard monitor sawtooth
- gambrel shed hip round other _____
- material:
 wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
 asphalt shingle built up tile other: _____

- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 71'x40'

- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when:
Alterations: no yes, explain: Ground floor opened up into two-room bar and restaurant

- 14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
 barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: _____
 carriage house shop garden _____
 (18'x20')

- 15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
 commercial industrial rural high building density

- 16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: Rapallo Avenue is a closely-packed street of older multi-family dwellings, small retail and wholesale enterprises, and a monument works. Building height is consistent at two or three stories with no setback for facades and entrances. Materials vary markedly; brick, wood, aluminum and asphalt siding, concrete and cinder block, brownstone. This "brick block of stores and tenements" is sited on the north side at the head of the street.

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Behind the restaurant, accessible only from Main Street, is a wooden carriage house/barn apparently pre-dating the brick building. In disrepair, it is used for storage.

SIGNIFICANCE

Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: This building shared in the commercial development in the Rapallo Avenue area at the turn of the twentieth century. Fifty years previously the land was the site of orchards and landscaped grounds surrounding a solitary dwelling, the Hackstaff Mansion.

This brick business block was built between 1906 and 1908. By then the Airline Railroad depot, the electric street railway, a hotel, several apartment houses, and a stoneyard were in operation in the area.

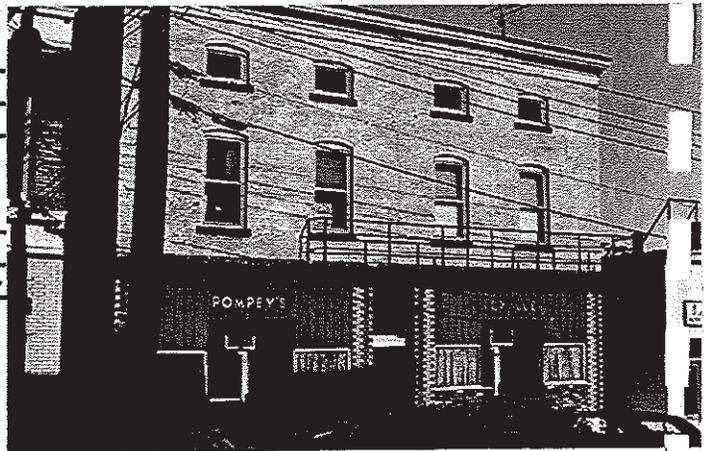
Abraham Simonson used the building for his furniture store for 35 years and partners, Max and Bessie Sukoff, sold the building in 1943 to Pompeo Labbadia. His family has run a restaurant, Pompey's, here (also for 35 years).

The battleship-gray-colored commercial building is typical of many Middletown business buildings. Twice as deep as it is wide, its only ornamentation consists of a stepped gable on the facade. The carriage shed in the rear is an anachronistic remainder of earlier times

The Pompey's Restaurant building has been part of some striking changes on Rapallo Avenue. The residential structures remain, as do a few businesses, but the street is no longer the vibrant commercial area it once was.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Roger Sherman
date: 1/78 view: south
negative on file: Roll 13, #4A



COMPILED BY:

name: R.N. Sherman date: 2/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Conn. 06457

19. SOURCES: Middletown Land Records; 1974 Tax Assessor's Map; Middletown City Directories; Consultation with current owner

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: _____

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: _____ Date: 5/90

Simonson's Furniture Store
50-52 Rapallo Avenue, Middletown, CT 06457

